

October 24, 2000

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20785

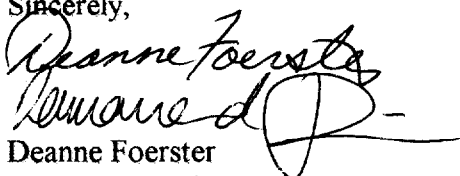
To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, docket number 98P-0151/CP1. As we have learned about the downed animal trade, we have been outraged and deeply saddened by the cruel treatment of these animals and that they are normally pushed with tractors or dragged with chains in order to get them to the slaughter house. These animals, who are too sick or injured to even stand, should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. Moreover, since they have an increased risk of acquiring Mad Cow Disease, they should not be slaughtered for human consumption.

Downed animals make up a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and by prohibiting their marketing, it will not cause undue economic hardship. Industry experts have even estimated that 90% of downed animals could be prevented if they had better care and handling. Removing the market of downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please use every effort possible to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals—docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,



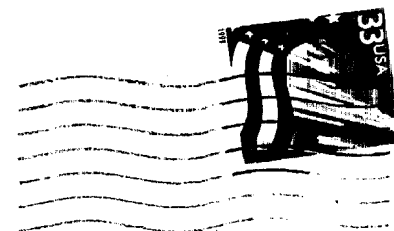
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98P-0151

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